The strategic sectors are:

1. Arms and Ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipments, defence aircrafts and warships.
2. Atomic Energy (except in the areas related to generation of nuclear power and application of radiation and radio isotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries).
3. Railway transport

All other PSEs would be strategic. The reduction of government share in these will not be automatic. The manner and pace of doing so could be worked out on case to case basis.

PSUs without permanent chiefs

47. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) how many PSUs do not have permanent chiefs (and top directors);

(b) how many of the current top board level appointments are on a temporary basis; and

(c) how many recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) have been put on hold, or not implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) 24 posts of Chief Executives and 39 posts of full time Directors were vacant as on 30.6.2000.

(b) 16 Board level posts are held on temporary basis.

(c) 25 recommendations of PESB are pending implementation with various Ministries/Departments.

Curtailing the powers of PESB

48. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to curtail the powers of the Public Enterprises Selection Board; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has only made a provision in the Resolution No. 27(21)EO/86(ACC) dated 3.3.1987 by which the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) was reconstituted, for making appointment to a particular post or posts in a Public Sector Enterprises, in special circumstances, other than through the PESB with the prior and specific approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

Implementation of VRS

49. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent so far by Government towards implementation of Voluntary Retiremet Scheme since the year of inception/ Introduction, year-wise PSU-wise, allocation made, year-wise and PSU-wise; and

(b) what is the basis of calculation of total payable amount to an individual who opts for VRS indicating the formula adopted in this regard and number of employees paid the required amount till 30th June, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The amount spent by Government (PSU-wise and year-wise) towards implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) since inception, as per available information, is enclosed as Statement-I. — (*See* below). The calculation of total payable amount to an individual who opts for VRS is based on the forumla indicated in the extant Government guidelines to this effect. Guidelines dated 5.10.88 and the new guidelines issued on 5.5.2000 are annexed as Statement-II (*See* below).

The information relating to number of employees paid the required amount till 30th June, 2000 is being collected from the PSUs and will be laid on the Table of the House.